



PRESS RELEASE
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Regional leaders featured at Denver workshop on antimicrobial drug use in food animals

OAK BROOK, IL Aug. 31, 2015: Regional leaders in livestock production, the veterinary community and the feed supply industry will be among the speakers at a Sept. 28 workshop in Denver, CO, on the stewardship of antimicrobial drug use in livestock.

Organized by Farm Foundation, NFP, the workshop is an opportunity for participants to gain a comprehensive understanding of two Guidance for Industry (GFIs) issued by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding the use of medically-important antimicrobial drugs in food-producing animals, as well as the FDA's revised [Veterinary Feed Directive](#) (VFD). These actions mean some medically-important antimicrobial drugs will see label changes allowing only therapeutic uses, and use of the drugs will require a veterinarian's prescription for the drug, direct administration by a veterinarian, or a veterinary consultation on disease management protocols.

The Sept. 28 workshop is targeted to all pork, cattle, poultry and sheep producers, as well as veterinarians and feed suppliers in Colorado, Wyoming, Western Kansas, Western Nebraska and Utah. The workshop will be 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. MDT at the National Western Stock Show, 4655 Humboldt St., Denver, CO. BARN Media and the Colorado Ag News Network are cooperating partners for this workshop.

Officials of FDA and USDA will be at the Denver workshop to review the policies and answer questions. Regional perspectives will be provided by a producer, veterinarian and feed supplier. On the Denver program will be:

- William Flynn, DVM, of the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine,
- Larry Granger, DVM, of the Antimicrobial Resistance Program at USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS),
- Steve Irsik of Irsik Farms, Ingalls, KS,
- Del Miles, DVM, MS, of Veterinary Research & Consulting Services, LLC, Greeley, CO, and
- Nathan Hubbard of the Feed Division of Agfinity, Eaton, CO.

Kevin Ochsner of Adayana Agribusiness Group, will moderate the workshop. Breakout sessions will allow producers, veterinarians and feed suppliers to discuss the management challenges ahead. The workshop is also an opportunity for state and federal agencies, colleges of veterinary medicine and university extension personnel, to gain insights into the changes needed to meet the requirements.

There is no charge to participate. Advanced registration, which is requested but not required, can be [completed online](#) or by going to the [Farm Foundation website](#). This is one of 12 workshops Farm Foundation is hosting on the topic across the country.

To gauge awareness of the changes being put in place by FDA, and to learn more about the potential implications of these changes, Farm Foundation is asking stakeholders to complete a brief survey. The survey is open to all livestock producers, feed suppliers and veterinarians, whether or not you attend the workshop. [CLICK HERE](#) to complete the survey. Survey results will only be gathered and reported in the aggregate. Survey results will be shared with workshop participants.

Comments gathered at this workshop will be the basis of a report assessing the economic and physical challenges facing producers as they implement the GFIs and revised VFD. Informational and educational needs will also be evaluated, as well as the role of veterinarians in monitoring and managing antimicrobial drug use. The report will be presented at a national summit to be convened by Farm Foundation in late fall 2015. This will be an opportunity for farmers, ranchers, feed suppliers, veterinarians, academics and government agency staff to advance the conversation on the industry's adaptation to the changing landscape of antimicrobial drug use.

Many producers and businesses across the entire food and agricultural value chain have already taken action to reduce the use of medically-important antimicrobial drugs in food animal production. FDA's [GFI 209](#) and [GFI 213](#) call on animal drug sponsors of approved medically-important antimicrobials administered through medicated feed or water to remove production uses (i.e., to promote growth or improve feed efficiency) from their product labels, and bring the remaining therapeutic uses of these products—to treat, control, or prevent disease—under the oversight of a veterinarian. Manufacturers of products containing these medically-important antimicrobial drugs have voluntarily agreed to submit changes to their product labels to comply with the GFIs. FDA's revised [VFD](#) addresses the increased veterinary oversight of medicated feeds called for by GFI 209 and 213.

A 501(c)3 nonprofit, Farm Foundation works as a catalyst for sound public policy by providing objective information to foster a deeper understanding of issues shaping the future for agriculture, food systems and rural regions. Since its founding in 1933, Farm Foundation has been a non-advocacy organization—we do not lobby or advocate positions. Our action comes in bringing industry leaders together to examine evolving issues that will shape the future of the industry. Antimicrobial drug use in food-producing animals is just such an issue.

About half of the Foundation's funding is from an endowment set up by its founders. The remainder is contributions from individuals, other foundations and companies who support the Foundation's work. For this project, support was received from JBS United, Hormel Foods Corporation, Jennie-O Turkey Store, Rose Acre Farms, Elanco Animal Health, J.R. Simplot Company, Irsik Farms, C-ARC Enterprises, Hardin Farms, National Pork Producers Council, the National Pork Board, the North American Meat Institute and the National Turkey Federation.

Four of the 12 workshops have been completed. For a complete list of workshop sites, or to learn more about Farm Foundation, visit our website, www.farmfoundation.org.

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